

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 05500 161428Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 CU-04 /017 W
-----124663 162340Z /75

R 161413Z SEP 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5641
INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 5500

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN,ET, US
SUBJ: RESUMPTION OF USIS ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA

1. FOLLOWING UP PROPOSALS BY AF/E DIRECTOR POST DURING RECENT VISIT THAT EPMG AUTHORIZE RESUMPTION OF SOME USIS ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA, MOFA AMERICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR BERHANE DERESSE TOLD POLCOUNS THAT IDEA WAS WORTH EXPLORING. HE DOUBTED WHETHER REOPENING OF SEPARATE USIS FACILITY WAS FEASIBLE IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. AT SAME TIME, HE SAID, SOME LOW PROFILE ACTIVITY MIGHT BE POSSIBLE, SUCH AS ASSIGNMENT OF PRESS AND CULTURAL OFFICER TO EMBASSY STAFF, WITH HIS OFFICE ON EMBASSY COMPOUND. IN BERHANE'S VIEW, OFFICER'S DUTIES MIGHT INCLUDE PRESS FUNCTION, EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, AND SOME OTHER LIMITED CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. BERHANE EVEN RAISED POSSIBILITY OF REOPENING SIX FORMER USIS-OPERATED READING ROOMS IN PROVINCIAL CITIES, WHOSE LIBRARIES ARE STILL INTACT AND WHICH EPMG INTENDS TO REOPEN TO PUBLIC IN DUE COURSE IN ANY EVENT. WHEN REMINDED THAT EPMG HAD IMPOSED NUMERICAL LIMIT ON SIZE OF EMBASSY STAFF, BERHANE SAID THAT FACT WOULD BE NO PROBLEM AT ALL.

2. BERHANE SAID HE WOULD DO SOME DISCREET SOUNDING WITH EPMG TO TEST REACTION TO PROPOSAL. ACCORDINGLY, DEPT AND USIA SHOULD NOT AT THIS STAGE PLACE TOO MUCH
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MEANING ON BERHANE'S INTEREST. HOWEVER, HIS INQUIRY MAY TURN OUT TO REPRESENT AN OPENING GAMBIT AND APPEARS TO US TO BE WORTH PURSUING AS FOLLOW-UP TO POST/HENZE SUGGESTIONS DURING THEIR VISIT. THEREFORE, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL BEFORE HE GOES TOO FAR TO KNOW WHETHER EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE TO PUSH PROPOSAL FROM OUR SIDE, AND IF SO, WHAT FORM OF ACTIVITY WE SHOULD

BE PUSHING FOR.
TIENKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EDUCATIONAL & CULTURAL EXCHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Subject: RESUMPTION OF USIS ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA
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